

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

AGR-20 FAA-00 AID-20 RSR-01 /179 W

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R 161100Z JUL 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3422

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. VISIT BY UNSG WALDHEIM TO MIDDLE EAST WAS WELCOMED
IN AHARAM EDITORIAL ON JULY 12. ARTICLE SPECIFIED,
HOWEVER, THAT VISIT SHOULD COME AFTER CONCLUSION OF
SECOND ROUND OF UNSC DEBATE AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION.
PRESS HAS BEEN PESSIMISTIC THAT WALDHEIM WILL BE ABLE
TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. EDITORIALS HAVE
BEEN CATEGORIC IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT "NEGOTIATIONS" WITH
ISRAEL THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF WALDHEIM, WHOSE PROPER
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ROLE THEY SEE AS ONE OF BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON

ISRAEL.

2. AHAM HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL MAKE A PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF NEW OIL DISCOVERIES DURING HIS JULY 23 SPEECH. THIS PRESUMABLY REFERS TO RECENT DISCOVERY IN GULF OF SUEZ NEAR EL-MORGAN FIELD (CAIRO 2104)

3. PRESS ON JULY 16 REVEALED SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF LUMBER IN EGYPT WHICH HAS FORCED SOME INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS TO CLOSE. THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CALLED FOR A STUDY OF THE LUMBER SITUATION. ACCORDING TO NEWS STORIES, NOT ONLY ARE SOME COMPANIES CLOSING, BUT LUMBER COMPANIES ARE BEING SQUEEZED BETWEEN FIXED PRICES FOR LUMBER IN EGYPT AND AN INCREASE OF 60 TO 110 PERCENT IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET PRICES. THEY ARE THUS LOSING 15-16 MILLION POUNDS PER YEAR. COMMENT: PRESS USUALLY AVOIDS MENTIONING SUPPLY SHORTAGES. FACT THAT LUMBER SHORTAGE HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED IS INDICATION OF ITS SEVERITY.

4. AL-AHRAM ON JULY 12 NOTED THAT THE EGYPTIAN LEGATION IN STOCKHOLM HAD INFORMED NOBEL PEACE COMMITTEE OF EGYPT'S SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT TITO FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

5. PRESS ANNOUNCED ON JULY 12 THE HUCKSTEP AIRPORT WOULD BE CONVERTED TO A CIVILAIN AIRPORT AND USED FOR PRIVATE FLIGHTS, INTERNAL FLIGHTS AND FLIGHTS TO AND FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

6. HEYKAL ARTICLE ON JULY 14 WAS A GENERALLY UNINSPIRED ENDING TO HIS SERIES ON THE MIDDLE EAST. PRINCIPAL THEME WAS THAT ARABS ARE DIVIDED AND THEREFORE WEAK. ARAB UNITY IS ESSENTIAL IF ARAB COUNTRIES ARE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS AND ACHIEVE THEIR FUTURE OBJECTIVES.

7. ON JULY 13 PAPERS NOTED THAT LIBYA HAD GRANTED ASYLUM TO KAZM AL-MAWSAWY, THE FORMER ASSISTANT IRAQI MILITARY ATTACHE IN BEIRUT.

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8. PRESS CARRIED ACCOUNT OF JULY 13 OF THE VISIT OF DR. MOHAMED MAHDY, CHAIRMAN OF THE ARA-AMERICAN COMMITTEE, TO CAIRO. PRESS NOTED MAHDY AS SAYING THAT EVERY ARAB COUNTRY SHOULD GIVE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE. MAHDY ALSO SAID THAT ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES FOR WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND ASKED FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR FROM EACH ARAB COUNTRY FOR THE

SUPPORT OF AN IMPROVED ARAB INFORMATION SERVICE IN THE
UNITED STATES

9. PRESS ON JULY 13 NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT THAT CZECH
CORRESPONDENT CTRONG MULLER HAD DEPARTED EGYPT WITHOUT
NOTIFYING HIS NEWS AGENCY OR THE CZECH EMBASSY IN CAIRO.
PRESS ASSUMED HE HAD DEFECTED TO A WESTERN COUNTRY.

10. PRESS ON JULY 16 ANNOUNCED ISSUANCE OF A PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE GRANTING AMNESTY TO PRISONERS WHO HAD SERVED
HALF OF THEIR SENTENCES PROVIDING THEIR SENTENCES ARE
NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR. THE PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED
ON JULY 23, THE OCCASION OF THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF
THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR
WHETHER THIS AMNESTY WILL INCLUDE PRISONERS SENTENCED
FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES.

11. PRESENCE IN CAIRO OF CHERIF BELKACEM, A MEMBER OF
THE ALGERIAN RCC, WAS NOTED IN JULY 16 PRESS. NEWSPAPERS
ALSO NOTED THAT YASSER ARAFAT WOULD COME TO CAIRO NEXT
WEEK AT THE HEAD OF A DELEGATION INCLUDING KHALED EL-
FAHOUM, CHAIRMAN OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS,
HAMID ABU SETTA, MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND
FAROUK KADDOUMI, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPERS DELEGATION WILL DISCUSS LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARAB CAUSE, THE POSITION OF THE
RESISTANCE, AND ITS RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES.

12. PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE HIGHER WAR COMMITTEE FOR
CAIRO GOVERNORATE WILL MEET ON JULY 18 UNDER MAMDOUH
SALEM, THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR.
MEETING WILL ALSO BE ATTENDED BY THE MINISTERS OF
HOUSING AND HEALTH. COMMENT; THIS IS FIRST MENTION OF
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HIGHER WAR COMMITTEE TO APPEAR IN PRESS IN SOME TIME.

13. WITH QADHAAFI'S DEPARTURE ON JULY 9 PRESS COMMENTARY
ON PENDING MERGER WITH LIBYA HAS TAPERED OFF. IN
RECENT DAYS ONLY SIGNIFICANT REFERENCE TO LIBYA WAS
ACCOUNCEMENT OF TRIP OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HATEM
TO LIBYA ON AUGUST 3 AND RECENT SIGNING OF AGREEMENT
FOR PARTICIPATION BY EGYPTIAN COMPANIES IN LIBYAN HOUSING
PROJECT COVERING CONSTRUCTION OF 5,200 HOUSING UNITS.
AL-AHRAM ARTICLE MENTIONED THAT MAJOR JALLUD, THE LIBYAN
PRIME MINISTER, HAD CONFERRED WITH THE HOUSING
MINISTERS OF EGYPT AND LIBYA PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF
THE HOUSING PROTOCOL IN TRIPOLI.
WILEY

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